BEST COPY
AVAILABLE

CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

ENDC/237
17 March 1969
Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 15 FEBRUARY 1969 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO THE CO-CHAIRMEN OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING RESOLUTIONS A/RES/2454 (XXIII) A AND B, A/RES/2455 (XXIII) AND A/RES/2456 (XXIII) A, B, C AND D OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Your Excellencies,

I have the honour to transmit the following resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third session, which entrust specific responsibilities to the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament:

A/RES/2454 (XXIII A and B) "Question of general and complete disarmament"

A/RES/2455 (XXIII) "Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests".

I would draw attention particularly to the following direct references to the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament contained in the above-mentioned resolutions:

In A/RES/2454 A (XXIII), operative paragraphs 1 and 4 requesting the Secretary-General to prepare a report on chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons, and requesting that the report be transmitted to the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, the Security Council and the General Assembly at an early date, if possible by 1 July 1969.

In A/RES/2454 B (XXIII), operative paragraph 1 requesting the Conference to pursue renewed efforts towards achieving substantial progress in reaching agreement on the question of general and complete disarmament under effective international control, and urgently to analyze the plans already under consideration and others that might be put forward to see how in particular rapid progress could be made in the field of nuclear disarmament.

GE.69-6094
69-06739

In operative paragraph 2, further requesting the Conference to continue its urgent efforts to negotiate collateral measures of disarmament.

In operative paragraph 3, deciding to refer to the Conference all documents and records of the meetings of the First Committee concerning all matters related to the disarmament question.

In operative paragraph 4, requesting the Conference to resume its work as early as possible and report to the General Assembly, as appropriate, on the progress achieved.

In A/RES/2455 (XXIII), operative paragraph 4 requesting the Conference to take up as a matter of urgency the elaboration of a treaty banning underground nuclear-weapon tests and to report to the General Assembly on this matter at its twenty-fourth session.

In connexion with paragraph 3 of A/RES/2454 B (XXIII), the relevant documents and records are the following:

A/7134; A/7223; A/7224/Add.1; A/7277 Corr.1 and 2; A/7327; A/7364; A/7441-A/7445; A/C.1/974; A/C.1/976; A/C.1/980; A/C.1/L.443; A/C.1/L.444/Rev.1; A/C.1/L.444/Adds. 1-9; A/C.1/L.445; A/C.1/L.445/Add.1; A/C.1/L.446; A/C.1/L.447; A/C.1/L.447/Adds. 1-5; A/C.1/L.448 Revs.1-2; A/C.1/L.449/Rev.1; A/C.1/L.450; A/C.1/L.451; A/C.1/L.452; A/C.1/L.458; A/C.1/L.458/Add.1; A/C.1/L.459/Rev.1/Add.1; A/C.1/L.460; A/C.1/L.460/Add.1; A/C.1/L.462; A/C.1/L.462/Adds.1 and 2; A/C.1/PV. 1606-1617; A/C.1/PV. 1623-1635; A/C.1/PV. 1640; A/C.1/PV. 1642 and 1643.

All these documents and records were distributed during the twenty-third session of the General Assembly to all Members of the United Nations, including all the members of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament.

I also have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of the members of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, the following resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third session, which deal with disarmament matters:

A/RES/2456 (XXIII) A, B, C and D "Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States".

Accept, Sirs, the assurances of my highest consideration.

U Thant
Secretary-General

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/2454 (XXIII)
10 January 1969

Twenty-third session
Agenda item 27

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[On the report of the First Committee (A/7441)]

2454 (XXIII). Question of general and complete disarmament

A

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the recommendations contained in its resolution 2162 B (XXI) of 5 December 1966 calling for strict observance by all States of the principles and objectives of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925,[1] condemning all actions contrary to those objectives and inviting all States to accede to that Protocol.

Considering that the possibility of the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons constitutes a serious threat to mankind,

Believing that the people of the world should be made aware of the consequences of the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons,

Having considered the report of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament which recommended that the Secretary-General should appoint a group of experts to study the effects of the possible use of such weapons,[2]

Noting the interest in a report on various aspects of the problem of chemical, bacteriological and other biological weapons which has been expressed by many Governments and the welcome given to the recommendation of the Conference of the

---

1/ League of Nations, Treaty Series, vol. XCIV, 1929, No.2138.

2/ See A/7189, para.26.

Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament by the Secretary-General in the introduction to his annual report on the work of the Organization submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session,3/

Believing that such a study would provide a valuable contribution to the consideration by the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament of the problems connected with chemical and bacteriological weapons,

Recalling the value of the report of the Secretary-General on the effects of the possible use of nuclear weapons,4/

1. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a concise report in accordance with the proposal contained in paragraph 32 of the introduction to his annual report on the work of the Organization submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session and in accordance with the recommendation of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament contained in paragraph 26 of its report;

2. Recommends that the report should be based on accessible material and prepared with the assistance of qualified consultant experts appointed by the Secretary-General, taking into account the views expressed and the suggestions made during the discussion of this item at the twenty-third session of the General Assembly;

3. Calls upon Governments, national and international scientific institutions and organizations to co-operate with the Secretary-General in the preparation of the report;

4. Requests that the report be transmitted to the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, the Security Council and the General Assembly at an early date, if possible by 1 July 1969, and to the Governments of Member States in time to permit its consideration at the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly;

5. Recommends that Governments should give the report wide distribution in their respective languages, through various media of communication, so as to acquaint public opinion with its contents;

3/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Supplement No. 1A (A/7201/Add.1), para.32.

4/ Effects of the Possible Use of Nuclear Weapons and the Security and Economic Implications for States of the Acquisition and Further Development of These Weapons (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.IX.1).

6. Reiterates its call for strict observance by all States of the principles and objectives of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925, and invites all States to accede to that Protocol.

1750th plenary meeting,
20 December 1968.

B

The General Assembly,

Considering that one of the main purposes of the United Nations is to save mankind from the scourge of war,

Convinced that the armaments race, in particular the nuclear arms race, constitutes a threat to peace,

Believing that it is imperative to exert further efforts towards reaching agreement on general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Noting with satisfaction the agreement of the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and of the United States of America to enter into bilateral discussions on the limitation and reduction of both offensive strategic nuclear weapons delivery systems and systems of defence against ballistic missiles,

Having received the report of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament,[5] to which are annexed documents presented by the delegations of the eight non-aligned members of the Committee and by Italy, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America,

Noting the memorandum of the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics dated 5 July 1968 concerning urgent measures to stop the arms race and achieve disarmament[6] and other proposals for collateral measures which have been submitted at the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament,

---

5/ A/7189

6/ A/7134

Recalling its resolutions 1767 (XVII) of 21 November 1962, 1908 (XVIII) of 27 November 1963, 2031 (XX) of 3 December 1965, 2162 C (XXI) of 5 December 1966, 2244 (XXII) of 19 December 1967 and 2342 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967,

1. Requests the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament to make renewed efforts towards achieving substantial progress in reaching agreement on the question of general and complete disarmament under effective international control, and urgently to analyse the plans already under consideration and others that might be put forward to see how in particular rapid progress could be made in the field of nuclear disarmament;

2. Further requests the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament to continue its urgent efforts to negotiate collateral measures of disarmament;

3. Decides to refer to the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament all documents and records of the meetings of the First Committee concerning all matters related to the disarmament question;

4. Requests the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament to resume its work as early as possible and to report to the General Assembly, as appropriate, on the progress achieved.

1750th plenary meeting,
20 December 1968.

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/2455 (XXIII)
10 January 1969

Twenty-third session
Agenda item 28

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/7442)]

2455 (XXIII). Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of the urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests and the report of the Conference of the Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 1762 (XVII) of 6 November 1962, 1910 (XVIII) of 27 November 1963, 2032 (XX) of 3 December 1965, 2163 (XXI) of 5 December 1966 and 2343 (XXII) of 19 December 1967,

Recalling further the joint memorandum on a comprehensive test ban treaty submitted on 26 August 1968 by Brazil, Burma, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Sweden and the United Arab Republic and annexed to the report of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament,[2]

Noting with regret the fact that all States have not yet adhered to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water, signed in Moscow on 5 August 1963,[3]

Noting with increasing concern that nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere and underground are continuing,

Taking into account the existing possibilities of establishing, through international co-operation, a voluntary exchange of seismic data so as to create a better scientific basis for a national evaluation of seismic events,

---

1/ A/7189.

2/ Ibid., annex I, document ENDC/235.

3/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 480 (1963), No. 6964.

Recognizing the importance of seismology in the verification of the observance of a treaty banning underground nuclear weapon tests,

Noting in this connexion that experts from various countries, including four nuclear-weapon States, have recently met unofficially to exchange views and hold discussions in regard to the adequacy of seismic methods for monitoring underground explosions, and the hope expressed that such discussions would be continued,

1. Urges all States which have not done so to adhere without further delay to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water;

2. Calls upon all nuclear-weapon States to suspend nuclear weapon tests in all environments;

3. Expresses the hope that States will contribute to an effective international exchange of seismic data;

4. Requests the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament to take up as a matter of urgency the elaboration of a treaty banning underground nuclear weapon tests and to report to the General Assembly on this matter at its twenty-fourth session.

1750th plenary meeting,
20 December 1968.

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/2456 (XXIII)
10 January 1969

Twenty-third session
Agenda item 96

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/7445)]

2456 (XXIII). Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States

A

The General Assembly,

Noting that pursuant to its resolution 2346 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967 the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States was held at Geneva from 29 August to 28 September 1968 and attended by ninety-two non-nuclear-weapon States and four nuclear-weapon States: France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America,

Having examined the Final Document of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States,[1]

Appreciating the importance of the consideration given by the participants in the Conference to the problems of achieving a universal peace and, in particular, the security of non-nuclear-weapon States, cessation of the nuclear arms race, general and complete disarmament and harnessing of nuclear energy exclusively for peaceful purposes,

Noting that the Conference has adopted the Declaration of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States and fourteen resolutions containing various recommendations,[2]

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, agenda item 96, document A/7277 and Corr.1 and 2.

2/ Ibid., para. 77.

Welcoming the constructive proposals adopted by the Conference,

Considering that in order to fulfil the aims of the Conference it is necessary to ensure the implementation of these proposals, which will require appropriate action by the international bodies and Governments concerned,

Noting in particular the decision of the Conference inviting the General Assembly at its twenty-third session to consider the best ways and means of implementing its decisions and continuing the work that has been undertaken,

1. Endorses the Declaration of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States;

2. Takes note of the resolutions adopted by the Conference;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the resolutions and the Declaration to the Governments of States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and to the international bodies concerned, for their careful consideration;

4. Invites the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international bodies concerned to report to the Secretary-General on the action taken by them in connexion with the recommendations contained in the respective resolutions of the Conference;

5. Invites the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the United Nations Development Programme and the International Atomic Energy Agency to continue, in consultation with their member States, the study of the recommendations of concern to these organizations, contained in resolution J of the Conference;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report based on the information supplied by those concerned on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution for consideration by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session;

7. Further requests the Secretary-General to place on the provisional agenda of the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly the question of the implementation, taking into account the reports of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament[3] and the International Atomic Energy Agency,[4] of the results of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States, including:

3/ A/7189.

4/ International Atomic Energy Agency, Annual Report of the Board of Governors to the General Conference, 1 July 1967-30 June 1968 (Vienna, July 1968) and supplementary report; transmitted to Members of the General Assembly by notes of the Secretary-General (A/7175 and Add.1).

(a) The question of convening early in 1970 a meeting of the United Nations Disarmament Commission to consider disarmament and the related question of the security of nations;

(b) The question of further international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy with particular regard to the special needs and interests of developing countries;

8. Further requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with resolution G of the Conference, to appoint a group of experts, chosen on a personal basis, to prepare a full report on all possible contributions of nuclear technology to the economic and scientific advancement of the developing countries;

9. Endorses the recommendation that the Secretary-General should draw the attention of the group of experts to the desirability of taking advantage of the experience of the International Atomic Energy Agency in preparing the report;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the report to the Governments of States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency in time to permit its consideration by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session.

1750th plenary meeting,
20 December 1968.

B

The General Assembly,

Having examined the Final Document of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States,5/

Considering that the establishment of zones free from nuclear weapons, on the initiative of the States situated within each zone concerned, is one of the measures which can contribute most effectively to halting the proliferation of those instruments of mass destruction and to promoting progress towards nuclear disarmament.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, agenda item 96, document A/7277 and Corr.1 and 2.

Observing that the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America,[6] opened for signature on 14 February 1967, has already established a nuclear-weapon-free zone comprising territories densely populated by man,

Reiterates the recommendation contained in resolution B of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States, concerning the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, and especially the urgent appeal for full compliance by the nuclear-weapon Powers with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2286 (XXII) of 5 December 1967, in which the Assembly invited Powers possessing nuclear weapons to sign and ratify as soon as possible Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America.

1750th plenary meeting,
20 December 1968.

C

The General Assembly,

Having considered the Final Document of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States,[7]

Observing that the use of explosive nuclear devices for peaceful purposes will have an extraordinary importance in the light of the technical documents prepared for the Conference at the request of the Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Recalling the statements made at the 1577th meeting of the First Committee by the representatives of the Co-Chairmen of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament to the effect that it will be convenient to initiate promptly the preparatory work for the determination of what appropriate principles and international procedures could be adopted in order that the potential benefits of any peaceful application of nuclear explosions might be made available, with due consideration for the needs of the developing areas of the world,

---

6/ Ibid., Twenty-second Session, Annexes, agenda item 91, document A/C.1/946.

7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, agenda item 96, document A/7277 and Corr.1 and 2.

1. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with the States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and with the co-operation of the latter and of those specialized agencies that he may consider pertinent, a report on the establishment, within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency, of an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, under appropriate international control;

2. Further requests the Secretary-General to transmit the report to the Governments of the States mentioned in paragraph 1 above in time to permit its consideration by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session.

1750th plenary meeting,
20 December 1968.

D

The General Assembly,

Noting the recommendation contained in resolution D of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States,

Considering that, pursuant to the agreement reached in July 1968 by the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to enter into bilateral discussions on the limitation of both offensive strategic nuclear-weapon delivery systems and systems of defence against ballistic missiles, such discussions could lead to the cessation of the nuclear arms race and to the achievement of nuclear disarmament and relaxation of tensions,

Urges the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to enter at an early date into bilateral discussions on the limitation of offensive strategic nuclear-weapon delivery systems and systems of defence against ballistic missiles.

1750th plenary meeting,
20 December 1968.

CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

ENDC/238
18 March 1969
ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS:

MESSAGE OF 18 MARCH 1969 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE SOVIET UNION TO THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

On behalf of the Soviet Government I greet the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament and wish it success in its work.

To reduce the danger of armed conflict and avert the threat of a world thermo-nuclear war, the Soviet Government is making persistent efforts to stop the arms race and to achieve disarmament. Since the emergence of nuclear weapons the Soviet Union has firmly and consistently proclaimed that mankind must be delivered from the nuclear menace.

The drafting and signing of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was a signal success in the struggle by States to bring about disarmament. The Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament has greatly contributed to the solution of this problem.

We note with satisfaction that over eighty countries have signed this Treaty. Now the task is to ensure that the Treaty enters into force as soon as possible.

The conclusion of the Non-Proliferation Treaty opens prospects for the achievement of international agreements on other matters, including the vitally important matter of nuclear disarmament.

The Soviet Government is well known to attach great significance to the provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, under which the Parties undertake to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race and to nuclear disarmament. It sent to all governments and placed on the agenda of the twenty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly a Memorandum on Some Urgent Measures for Stopping the Arms Race and for Achieving Disarmament.

The peoples are concerned at the continuance of the nuclear arms race. We deem it important to find without delay ways of reaching agreement primarily on the non-use of nuclear weapons, and on other measures of nuclear disarmament. The solution of these problems would undoubtedly contribute much to the efforts to end the arms race, and would help to remove the threat of nuclear war.

GE.69-6337
69-06742

It is also of the greatest importance to agree that the sea-bed and the ocean floor shall not be used for military purposes but shall remain a sphere for man's peaceful activities. For this purpose the Soviet Union is submitting for the consideration of the Eighteen-Nation Committee a draft treaty prohibiting the use for military purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor and the subsoil thereof.

Solutions must also be found to the vitally important problems of cessation of the manufacture of nuclear weapons, the reduction and destruction of their stockpiles, the limitation and subsequent reduction of means of delivery of strategic weapons, the prohibition of chemical and bacteriological warfare, and other We believe that consideration by the Eighteen-Nation Committee of the relevant proposals contained in the Memorandum of the Soviet Government would facilitate the solution of these major problems.

Permit me to express the hope that the Committee's work will yield practical results in ending the arms race and moving forward towards disarmament.

May the activities of the Eighteen-Nation Committee be guided at all times by the peoples' desire that any international tensions shall be relaxed and world peace ensured.

Respectfully,

A. KOSYGIN

Chairman of the Council
of Ministers of the USSR